THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Various measures are being taken up to promote exports including identification of new markets and new items which is an on-going process. These include various multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions to deversify our exports.

As per the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data for 1998-99, the top 15 export destinations of Indian goods were USA, UK, Germany, Hong Kong, UAE, Japan, Belgium, Italy, Bangladesh, France, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Singapore and Spain; and the top export commodities were Gems and Jewellery, Ready made Garments of Cotton including accessories, Cotton Yarn Fabrics and madeups, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, Machinery and Instruments, Manufactures of metals, Marine products, Rice (other than Basmati) Readymade Garments Manmade fibres, Transport Equipment, Manmade yarn, Fabrics madeups, Handicrafts (excluding handmade carpets) tea and inorganic/organic/agro chemicals.

Export Target

†1065. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had fixed any target for exports during current financial year;

(b) if so, die details thereof;

(c) the value of exports till the end of December, 1999; and

(d) the names of those ten items out of these exports which have been exported in largest number and the value thereof, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An export target of US $ 37400 million (excluding computer software) has been fixed for the year 1999-2000 registering a growth rate of 11.3% over the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data of 1998-99.

(d) As per die Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data exports during April-December, 1999 have been valued at US $ 27419.23 million.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) As per the provisional April-November, 1999 data the 10 largest exported items and their value is as under:—

(US $ Million)

Items	April-Nov. 1999
Gems & jewellery	4761
Readymade garments	2950
Cotton yarn fabrics	2014
Basic chemicals and pharma	1859
Manufactures of metal	803
Marine products	771
Machinery and instruments	751
Transport equipment	686
Leather and manufactures except Footwear	638
Rubber, glass and lelated products	598

Restriction on Import of American Products

1066. SHRI S.RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted Quantitative Restriction (QR) on imports of 1400 American products into the country;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to take such a decision just after the Winter Session was adjourned on 23rd December, 1999;

(c) whether Government are aware that this lifting of QR would endanger India's economic security; and

(d) if so, as to why India has kept it secret and US has exposed it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no lifting of Quantitative Restriction (QR) on 1400 American Products. However, consequent to the ruling and recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that India was no longer justified in maintaining quantitative restrictions (QRs) on import on balance of payments (BoP) grounds in a dispute filed by the United States of America, India and the USA have signed a bilateral agreement which has determined the reasonable